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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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U.S. TOBACCO INDUSTRY TO BUY 510.5 MILLION POUNDS OF 1991-CROP BURLEY TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17—U.S. cigarette manufacturers plan to purchase 510.5 million pounds (farm sales weight) of 1991-crop burley tobacco, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 require major domestic cigarette manufacturers to report annually to USDA their intended purchases of burley tobacco from U.S. auction markets and producers.

The information is used to partially determine USDA's annual burley tobacco marketing quota. Two other determining factors are the average annual burley exports for the preceding three years and the amount of tobacco needed to attain reserve stock levels. The 1991 quota will be announced by Feb. 1.

Bjerke said annual burley exports for 1988, 1989 and 1990 averaged 167.6 million pounds.

In 1990, manufacturers' intended purchases totaled 395 million pounds.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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USDA DOUBLES FINE FOR SMUGGLING PROHIBITED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INTO U.S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that travelers entering the continental United States with undeclared agricultural products will face double the previous fines beginning Jan. 27.

Those failing to declare prohibited goods now may be fined \$50. Cases involving concealment or misrepresentation may receive \$100 fines.

“Bringing foreign meat and plant products into the United States poses a serious threat to the health of U.S. crops and livestock,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection

Service. "It's important that travelers declare all agricultural products when entering the United States so they can be inspected for harmful pests and diseases."

Glosser emphasized that any attempt to smuggle meats, fruits or vegetables is a federal offense.

According to Glosser, the new set of penalties applies to all persons traveling from Hawaii, Puerto Rico and foreign countries into the continental United States.

Travelers may contest the penalties, but the fine can go as high as \$1,000 if they lose the case. No fines are imposed for prohibited products if they are declared during baggage inspection. All illegal items are confiscated with no compensation.

"APHIS spends millions of dollars to eradicate destructive pests and diseases that enter the United States inside fruits, vegetables and meats packed in personal luggage," Glosser said. "Our most recent effort to eradicate Mediterranean fruit flies from California cost over \$50 million."

Tropical produce such as mangoes, avocados, papayas and limes are among the illegal items most frequently intercepted at international U.S. ports of entry. Additional prohibited items include most meat products, most fresh fruits and vegetables and potted plants.

Some permissible products include baked goods, cured cheeses, canned or dried fruits, canned or processed vegetables, dried spices and roasted coffee beans.

For more information on what can and cannot be brought from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and foreign countries into the United States, call the APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine office in state capitals, or PPQ Port Operations at (301) 436-8295; or write: Travelers' Tips, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Janna Evans (301) 436-7251

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ALL BUT THREE STATES NOW IN PSEUDORABIES PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17—All but three states—Maryland, Montana and Nevada—are now enrolled in the cooperative state-federal-industry program to wipe out pseudorabies, a costly disease of swine and other livestock, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

According to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 47 states and Puerto Rico have entered the five-stage eradication program.

Stage I of the eradication program is preparation; stage II is control; stage III is mandatory herd clean-up; and stage IV is surveillance to make sure no infection is present. "A state can be declared 'pseudorabies-free'—stage V—if it goes for a year in stage IV without finding an infected swine herd," Glosser said.

Connecticut and Maine recently became the first two states to reach stage IV of the program.

Pseudorabies is a contagious livestock disease that is most prevalent in swine. Although it often causes death in newborn pigs, older hogs may survive the infection and remain carriers of the virus for life. Stress or other conditions may trigger the virus from its latent state in these carrier animals.

Pseudorabies, sometimes called Aujeszky's disease or "mad itch," also affects cattle, sheep, dogs, cats and other animals. In these species, it almost always causes death. Pseudorabies does not affect humans.

Glosser said a number of new tools are being used in the campaign to eradicate pseudorabies, including genetically engineered vaccines that allow tests to differentiate between infected and vaccinated animals.

"In past programs against other diseases, use of vaccines sometimes masked the disease and made it difficult to detect infection," he said. "But the genetically engineered vaccines let us use vaccination as a valuable weapon in helping wipe out this disease."

Glosser said the pseudorabies eradication effort also is unique in that the swine industry took the lead in developing standards for the eradication program. "In essence, pork producers got together and decided on the kind of program they wanted to get rid of this disease," he said.

States in stage I of the program are Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wyoming, as well as Puerto Rico.

States in stage II are Alaska, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington.

States in stage III are Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, North Carolina (except for 13 counties that remain in stage II), North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Larry Mark (202) 447-3977

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USDA ANNOUNCES 35 ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY SPECIAL PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide \$9.1 million for 35 water quality special projects in 30 states.

“This is part of USDA’s accelerated effort to support the President’s Water Quality Initiative,” Yeutter said.

The Agricultural Conservation Program will provide cost-share assistance for remedial actions to improve water quality, to solve problems caused by agricultural non-point source pollution of ground and surface water, and to support individual state efforts. Such pollution stems from animal waste, fertilizers, pesticides and sediment.

“On all of these projects we’ll be working closely with state and local agencies, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Environmental Protection Agency,” said Yeutter.

State and county offices of USDA’s Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will administer the projects with assistance from USDA’s Cooperative Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

The projects will be monitored by USDA, USGS, EPA and state agencies to ensure that the public’s water supply is protected and improved.

Chart on next page

State	Project
Arizona	Silver Creek
Arkansas	Illinois River
California	Livestock Waste Control
Colorado	Holbrook
Delaware	Chesapeake Bay; Nanticoke River
Georgia	Upper Chattahoochee River Basin
Hawaii	Maunawili-Waimanalo
Idaho	Lake Lowell and Upper Indian Creek
Iowa	French Creek
Kansas	Squaw Creek; Rock Creek
Louisiana	Sabine River-San Miguel
Maine	St. George River
Massachusetts	Billington Sea
Michigan	North Lake Leelanau
Minnesota	Sauk River and Chain-of-Lakes
Nebraska	Quad County; Bazile Triangle
New York	Lake Champlain Empire Basin; Susquehanna River Basin-Chesapeake Bay
North Carolina	Upper Hiawassee
Ohio	Old Woman Creek
Oregon	Coquille River Basin; Crabtree-Thomas Creek
Pennsylvania	Lake Wallenpaupack
Rhode Island	Narragansett Bay
South Carolina	Little Saluda-Clouds Creek
South Dakota	Bad River
Tennessee	Sweetwater Creek
Utah	Rabbit Valley
Vermont	Lower Lake Champlain
Virginia	Accomack County
Washington	Kamm Creek
West Virginia	Upper Mill Creek

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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USDA SETS HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION SERVICES IN MARYLAND

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a public hearing Friday at 10 a.m., Jan. 25, in the meeting room of the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Route 231, Hughesville, Md., on an application for tobacco inspection services to the markets of Waldorf, Upper Marlboro, and Hughesville, Md.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the application is being made by a Maryland growers organization because prospective foreign buyers have requested federal grading of tobacco sold at the Maryland auction markets.

Notice of the hearing will be published in the Jan. 23 Federal Register. Copies and additional information on the application are available from the director, Tobacco Division, rm. 502 Annex, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 447-2567.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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USDA DECLARES KENTUCKY FREE OF SWINE BRUCELLOSIS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared Kentucky to be free of swine brucellosis.

This action means swine producers in Kentucky will no longer have to test breeding animals for brucellosis before moving them to another state, according to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

As a result of a state-federal cooperative eradication campaign, 35 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have now been validated as free of swine brucellosis. Glosser said the cooperative program aims to eradicate this disease from the entire nation within the next five years.

The change in status for Kentucky will be published as an interim rule in the Jan. 22 Federal Register, and public comments are invited. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket No. 90-248 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development; PPD, APHIS, USDA; Rm. 866 Federal Building; 6505 Belcrest Road; Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm.

1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Swine brucellosis is an infectious bacterial disease that causes pregnant sows to abort or give birth to weak piglets. The disease is caused by the bacterium *Brucella suis*, which can be transmitted to humans where it causes a severe debilitating disease with flu-like symptoms. Human infection generally occurs only in those who handle infected pigs or their carcasses.

Margaret Webb (301) 436-6573

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USDA ASKS FOR COMMENTS ON 1991 TOBACCO MARKETING QUOTAS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today asked for comment on the 1991 marketing quota for five kinds of tobacco.

The tobaccos and principal growing states are: Virginia fire-cured, type 21 and Virginia sun-cured, type 37 (Virginia); cigar-filler and binder, types 42-44 and 53-55 (Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin); fire-cured, types 22-23 (Kentucky and Tennessee); and dark air-cured, types 35-36 (Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee).

USDA will consider any written comment received by Feb. 8. The quotas will be announced by March 1. Details will appear in the Jan. 24 Federal Register.

Send comments to: Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA-ASCS, Room 3741-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.30 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.23 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.24 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.15 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.09 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.47 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.40 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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USDA SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSAL TO UPDATE WOOL AND MOHAIR STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking comments on its proposal to consolidate regulations regarding U.S. standards for grades of wool and mohair, and to bring the costs of samples for these standards in line with the costs of preparing the samples.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said consolidating the standards would eliminate duplications in definitions.

“Wool is taken from sheep, and mohair from Angora goats; but people in the wool and mohair trade generally pair the terms,” he said. “Joining descriptions of the standards into one book simply would catch up with the industry practice,” Haley said.

Wool and mohair standards focus on fiber quality, with many kinds of precision measurements set for different kinds of fibers. The standards

also include definitions of equipment to be used to make the measurements.

USDA standards for wool and wool top (long strands of scoured wool from which naturally accompanying shorter fibers have been combed) were established in 1926. Standards for mohair were set in 1971, and for mohair top in 1973.

Wool and mohair merchants in the United States and abroad buy physical samples of the standards from USDA to assess the quality of the wool and mohair they buy. Schools, colleges and vocational agricultural youth groups conducting programs on wool quality also buy the samples.

Charges for preparing wool samples have not been raised since 1966, and since 1969 for wool top. Charges for preparing mohair samples have been unchanged since their standards were established.

Proposed fee changes for samples of the standards are:

	from:	to:
Wool and mohair		
single sample, domestic use	\$2	\$6
single sample, foreign use	2.50	8
set of samples, domestic use	22	60
set of samples, foreign use	24	65
Wool top		
single sample, domestic use	3	8
single sample, foreign use	3.50	10
set of samples, domestic use	42	90
set of samples, foreign use	44	95
Mohair top		
single sample, domestic use	3	10
single sample, foreign use	3.50	12
set of samples, domestic use	27	90
set of samples, foreign use	30	95

Notice of the proposal will be published as a proposed rule in the Jan. 25 Federal Register. Comments, postmarked or courier-dated no later than Feb. 25, 1991, should be sent to Michael L. May, chief, Livestock and Meat Standardization Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS,

USDA, Rm. 2603-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.
Copies of the proposed rule are available from that office—telephone
(202) 447-4486.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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SCS FORECASTS BELOW-AVERAGE STREAMFLOWS FOR MANY AREAS IN WEST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23—Much of the West may be facing yet another year of below-average streamflows, according to the latest outlook for the Western water supply by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

Based on snowpack and precipitation data, SCS expects streamflows below 70 percent of normal in areas of eight states: all of California and Nevada, central Utah, south-central Idaho, northwestern Colorado, southern and eastern Oregon, eastern Wyoming, and central Arizona.

SCS Chief William Richards attributes the below-average forecasts for these regions to well-below-average fall precipitation and winter snowpack accumulations. For some of these areas 1991 could be the fifth consecutive year of below-average streamflows. The rest of the West received good fall precipitation and early snowpack accumulation, SCS reports.

Three states report reservoir storage above 100 percent of average at the end of December: Colorado, New Mexico and Washington. Reservoir storage is lowest in Nevada, at 8 percent of average.

Western states depend on snowmelt for about 75 percent of their water supply. SCS and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service jointly analyze snow and precipitation data to forecast seasonal runoff in the West.

The state-by-state outlook:

ALASKA—Early winter in Alaska was cold and snowy. Most of the state now has a well-above-average snowcover. The Tanana drainage is reported to have the state's heaviest snowcover—240 percent of average. The Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon drainages, Seward Peninsula and the southeast also report very heavy snow. A near-average snowpack covers the Koyukuk, Cook Inlet, Copper and Kenai Peninsula Basins. Only the

Arctic and central Yukon portion of the northeast interior have a below-average snowpack.

ARIZONA—The surface water supply outlook for Arizona is showing some improvement primarily due to storms in December and early January. October-December precipitation was average or above average except over the Verde River basin and northwestern Arizona. Fall streamflow was below average but January-May forecasts call for average to above-average flow on the Salt, Gila, and Little Colorado rivers. The Verde forecast is below average. Reservoir storage is still low in central Arizona but near average on the Colorado River.

CALIFORNIA—The drought in California continues to be of major importance. It now appears that California will experience a fifth consecutive year of below-normal precipitation and streamflow volumes. Precipitation so far this season, October through December, averages only 25 percent of normal statewide. The driest areas are along the central coast and the upper Sacramento River drainage where fall precipitation has been less than 20 percent of average. For the northern Sierra, the October through December period was the fourth driest in 70 years. If the dry weather pattern persists, streamflow volumes could drop to as low as 25 to 30 percent of average throughout California.

COLORADO—Dry conditions have prevailed across most of the Colorado mountains during the past year. The best prospects for near-normal water supplies are in the Arkansas and Rio Grande basins, while the northern and central basins will require above-normal snowfall to improve their water supply conditions.

IDAHO—Much of southern and central Idaho faces an uncertain spring and summer water supply. Mountain snowpacks in southcentral Idaho contain only about half of the normal water content, and many reservoirs are well below normal. Northern Idaho snowpacks are above normal, and should ensure an adequate water supply for that portion of the state. The remaining 3-4 months of the winter accumulation season will be critical in determining the fate of southern and central Idaho's water supply in 1991.

MONTANA—Snowpacks vary from well above average in northwest Montana to well below average in the southwest and north-central part of the state and in the smaller mountain ranges of central Montana. Cumulative mountain precipitation since Oct. 1 is well above average in the northwestern and northcentral areas, below average in southwest Montana, and near-to-above average elsewhere. Reservoir storages are

generally near-to-above average except in southwest and central Montana where below-to-well-below-average storage levels are reported.

NEVADA—Water supply conditions for the Great Basin of Nevada and California are well below average and present the prospect of continuing severe drought conditions. Storms have tracked across northeastern Nevada yielding snowpacks in the below-average range and have added very little to western Nevada where basins are well below average. Precipitation for December, and the year, was well below average in all basins. Seven major reservoirs average 4 percent of capacity and 8 percent of average. Streamflows in all basins are expected to be well below average for their forecast periods.

NEW MEXICO—Water supply conditions across New Mexico range from near average to much above average. Although it is still early in the season to forecast with certainty, the outlook for a good water supply this spring is the brightest in several years.

OREGON—Water shortages can be expected again this year in the southern half of the state unless Oregon receives heavy precipitation and snowpack accumulations during the remainder of the season. Mountain snowpack is generally less than 60 percent of average except on Mt. Hood and the west slopes of the northern Cascades where it is near normal. December's precipitation was much below average for all basins in Oregon. Most streamflows are forecast to be much below average this year.

UTAH—Although basin moisture averages still remain below normal, fall precipitation has improved over recent years. Jan. 1 snowpack is about two-thirds of usual. Reservoir storage is below last year at this time because of continued effects of drought. Forecasts for next spring and summer streamflows are below normal. However, more than half of the state's snowfall normally comes after Jan. 1.

WASHINGTON—December temperatures were below normal and varied from 12 degrees below average in the Okanogan Basin to 4 degree below average in the Walla Walla Basin. December precipitation was 68 per cent of normal statewide, and varied from 60 percent of average in the Okanogan Basin to 106 percent in the Olympic Basin. Jan. 1 reservoir storage is generally good throughout the state, with reservoirs in the Yakima Basin at 131 percent of average and 72 per cent of capacity. December streamflows varied from 231 percent of normal on the Okanogan River to 71 per cent on the Yakima River at Martin. Forecasts

for 1991 runoff vary from 159 percent of average for Smilkameen River to 71 percent on Mill Creek in the Walla Walla Basin.

WYOMING—Fall precipitation over the state for the most part was good. Water users over much of the state will see flows during the spring and summer months that are below to much below average. Several areas in the state have snowpacks that are above average, and in those localized situations spring runoff will be better than the state as a whole Reservoir storage is good in the northwest corner of the state, and along the Wind River to Boysen, but is below-to-much-below average over the remainder of the state.

Ted Kupelian (202) 447-5776

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